

Rethinking Cultural Analysis

The goal of the course is to reconsider the contemporary analysis of culture in light of contemporary global capitalism. We will start with a close reading of Donald M. Lowe's *The Body in Late-Capitalist USA*, and selections from Pierre Bourdieu's *Distinction* and *The Field of Cultural Production*. From this foundation we will look closely at one major theoretical question, the concept of fetishism and its changing terms within anthropology, Marxism, and psychoanalysis by considering primary theoretical texts. We will then apply our understanding to a case study the example of high heel shoes as cultural practice and image representation ranging from fashion and advertising to hard core pornography.

Students can write papers directed at the theoretical issues or apply the concepts to a new object of study.